1 KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California 2 GREGORY J. SALUTE Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 ALVARO MEJIA Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 216956 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 5 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-0083 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804 6 Attorneys for Complainant 8 BEFORE THE **BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING** 9 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 Case No. 2019 - 733 11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: 12 MICHELLE RENEE LANGSTON, a.k.a., MICHELLE R. LANGSTON 13 ACCUSATION 11600 Show Ring Lane Bakersfield, CA 93312 14 Registered Nurse License No. 579878 15 Respondent. 16 17 Complainant alleges: 18 19 **PARTIES** Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her 20 official capacity as the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board"). 21 22 2. On or about April 16, 2001, the Board issued Registered Nurse License No. 579878 to Michelle Renee Langston, a.k.a., Michelle R. Langston, ("Respondent"). The Registered 23 24 Nurse License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and 25 will expire on October 31, 2012, unless renewed. 26 111 27 111 28 ///

JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code ("Code") unless otherwise indicated.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 4. Code section 490 provides that a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.
- 5. Code section 2750 provides that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
 - 6. Code section 2761 states, in pertinent part:

"The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- "(a) Unprofessional conduct, . . .
- "(d) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violating of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act] or regulations adopted pursuant to it.
- "(f) Conviction of a felony or of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof. . . ."
 - 7. Code section 2762 states, in pertinent part:

"In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

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- "(b) Use any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to himself or herself, any other person, or the public or to the extent that such use impairs his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license.
- "(c) Be convicted of a criminal offense involving the prescription, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section, or the possession of, or falsification of a record pertaining to, the substances described in subdivision (a) of this section, in which event the record of the conviction is conclusive evidence thereof. . . ."
- 8. Code section 2764 provides that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under section 2811, subdivision (b), the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight (8) years after the expiration.

REGULATORY PROVISION

9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444 states, in pertinent part:

"A conviction or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a registered nurse if to a substantial degree it evidences the present or potential unfitness of a registered nurse to practice in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. . . ."

COST RECOVERY

10. Code section 125.3 provides that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Convictions of Substantially Related Crimes)

- 11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 490 and 2761, subdivision (f), in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444, in that Respondent was convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a registered nurse which to a substantial degree evidence her present or potential unfitness to practice in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare, as follows:
- a. On or about July 15, 2011, after pleading nolo contendere, Respondent was convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Vehicle Code section 23152(a) [drive with an equal to or greater than 0.08% blood alcohol content (BAC)] in the criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of California v. Michelle R. Langston* (Super. Ct. Kern County, 2011, No. BM785995A). The Court sentenced Respondent to 45 days in jail, placed her on three (3) years of probation, ordered her to complete the Victim Impact Panel, monitored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and ordered her to install an Ignition Interlock Device on her vehicle. The circumstances underlying the conviction are that on or about April 1, 2011, Respondent drove a vehicle while under the influence, with a BAC of 0.13%.
- b. On or about May 23, 2008, after pleading nolo contendere, Respondent was convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Vehicle Code section 23103.5(a) [reckless driving wet reckless] in the criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of California v. Michelle Renee Langston* (Super. Ct. Kern County, 2007, No. BM716374A). The Court sentenced Respondent to two (2) days in jail, placed her on three (3) years probation, and ordered her to complete a Licensed Alcohol Education Program. The circumstances underlying the conviction are that on or about August 13, 2007, Respondent drove a vehicle while under the influence, with a BAC of 0.15%.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Alcohol Related Convictions)

Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 2761, subdivision 12. (a), and 2762, subdivision (c), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about May 23, 2008, and on or about July 15, 2011, Respondent was convicted of alcohol related crimes. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates the allegations set forth above in paragraph 11, subparagraphs a and b, inclusive, as though set forth fully.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dangerous Use of Alcohol)

Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 2761, subdivision (a), and 2762, subdivision (b), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about August 13, 2007, and on or about April 1, 2011, Respondent used alcoholic beverages dangerously and to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to herself or others. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 11 - 12, inclusive, as though set forth fully.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct – Violate Nursing Practice Act)

Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 2761, subdivisions (a) and/or (d), in that Respondent committed acts of unprofessional conduct and/or act violating the Nursing Practice Act. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 11 - 13, inclusive, as though set forth fully.

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PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License No. 579878, issued to Michelle Renee Langston;
- 2. Ordering Michelle Renee Langston to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to section 125.3; and
 - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED

Interim Executive Officer Board of Registered Nursing

State of California Complainant

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